ENGLISH

1. Make the following curricular changes to the Master of English (M.A. Engl.)

Of the minimum of 33 credits required for the degree, at least 24 credits must be earned in the Department of English at the University of Idaho, and of these no more than nine credits earned at the Grace Nixon Summer English Institute may be applied to the degree; included in the total credits required, 3 credits are to be taken in a theory course (which may include Engl 506, Engl 511, or a theory course approved by the department’s director of graduate studies) and 3 credits in pre-1900 literature. Course work for the M.A. in English is normally at the 500s level; however, up to six credits of work at the 400s level may be included, but only with the approval of the student’s major professor and the department’s director of graduate studies. Students are allowed to take 3 credits maximum in practica applying toward the degree.

Distance education: Less than 50% of the curricular requirements can be completed via distance

Geographical Area Availability: Moscow

Rationale: In April 2014 the English faculty passed this resolution: “The English Department agrees with the FFF proposal that we eliminate our MAT program, but we do so with the hope of bolstering our MA program and with a continuing sense of commitment to supporting English teachers from the state.” Eliminating the exclusion for credits earned in the summer would enable candidates to be admitted to the M.A. program who intend to fulfill degree requirements only or mainly in the summers. Currently, summer graduate English courses meet over a four-week period; classes have a pedagogical focus, to serve secondary teachers. The department plans instead to schedule intensive two-week face-to-face classes and then to allow for an extended research period monitored at a distance by the faculty member. Students can also be given reading assignments before the class begins. These courses should be no less interesting to in-service teachers and will continue to provide the collective experience that so many value in the Nixon Institute. They will also, presumably, be more enticing to academic-year students.

2. Make the following curricular changes to the Master of Teaching English as a Second Language (M.A.T.E.S.L.)

The M.A. in TESL is intended for students who are interested in learning to teach English as a second language at the post-secondary level. The students take courses in linguistics and in language teaching pedagogy. This curriculum provides them with theoretical background and practical training in the areas of second language acquisition.

Of the minimum of 33 credits required for the degree, at least 24 must be earned while enrolled in residence at UI, and at least 21 credits must be earned in courses numbered 500 and above. The 33 credits are to include the following courses (18 credits):

- Engl 510 Studies in Linguistics (6 cr) (Descriptive Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition)
- Engl 524 Descriptive Linguistics (3 cr)
- Engl 551 Theories of Second/Additional Language Acquisition (3 cr)
- Engl 513 ESL Methods I: Basic Oral/Aural Skills (3 cr)
Engl 515  ESL Teaching Practicum (3 cr)
Engl 517  Introduction to Applied Linguistics (3 cr)
Engl 544  Sociolinguistics (3 cr)

The remaining 15 credits are to be taken in approved electives in the Department of English, which may include thesis credits.

The M.A. in TESL offers a thesis option. Students who choose to complete the thesis option will write a thesis which may be up to 6 credits of their required 33 credits. Students who do not elect to write a thesis must complete their non-thesis option in the form of a comprehensive examination.

Native speakers of English in the TESL program must complete or have completed two years of college work (or its equivalent) in a modern foreign language. They must have studied a foreign language for at least one semester (or equivalent) within the preceding five years. Non-native speakers of English are excused from this requirement.

**Distance education:** Less than 50% of the curricular requirements can be completed via distance.

**Geographical Area Availability:** Moscow

**Rationale:** The current curriculum requires that students complete these courses but lists them as Engl 510 – Studies in Linguistics. The Engl 510 is a course code used for special topics; however, both Descriptive Linguistics and Theories of Second/Additional Language Acquisition are core courses and are offered each Fall semester.

It is important to see this change reflected in the curriculum so that prospective students can be directed to the description of these courses.

The courses are not going to impact the current workload since they are already in existence.

The learners will be assessed in these courses via examinations, data collection/analysis projects, and written critiques/evaluations of empirical studies.